

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the Application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An ice cream scoop comprising:

a first scoop member including a handle having a first end and a second end, a ring being formed on the first end of the handle of the first scoop member; ~~and~~

a second scoop member including a handle having a first end and a second end, a bowl being formed on the first end of the handle of the second scoop member;

the second end of the handle of the first scoop member and the second end of the handle of the second scoop member being pivotally connected;

the ring of the first scoop member being engageable with the bowl of the second scoop member to form a scoop for scooping ice cream;

an elastic element being attached between the second end of the handle of the first scoop member and the second end of the handle of the second scoop member for biasing the ring of the first scoop member and the bowl of the second scoop member away from each other for ejecting ice cream, wherein the ring includes a stepped portion in an inner periphery thereof, the ring of the first scoop member resting on top of the bowl of the second scoop member when the ice cream scoop is utilized for scooping.

with an outer periphery of the stepped portion of the ring being in contact with an outer periphery of the bowl, said stepped portion forming a raised annular rim along an inner surface of said bowl and being positioned adjacent an upper edge of said bowl for separating scooped ice cream from said inner surface of said bowl.

Claim 2 (original): The ice cream scoop as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring of the first scoop member is at least partially removably received in the bowl of the second scoop member.

Claim 3 (canceled)